

Demurrage paid to the railway*

997. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRI RAMANAND
YADAV: SHRI PRAKASH
MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of goods wagons for which demurrage was paid by the consigners during January 1980—June, 1980?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The information is being collected from the zonal railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Man-days lost due to strikes and lockouts

898. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of man-days lost due to strikes, lockouts in industries separately during the last six months; and

(b) what is the number of disputes settled (i) through negotiations (ii) by strike withdrawal and (iii) on the intervention of the courts and court decisions during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) According to the available provisional information, there were 3.14 million man-days lost due to strikes and 2.87 million mandays lost due to lockouts, during January to May, 1980. The information for the month of June, 1980 is not yet available.

(b) A statement showing the number of terminated disputes, settled during January to May, 1980 by the various methods of settlement, is attached.

Statement

The number of terminated disputes settled during January to May, 1980, by the various methods of settlement.

Method of Settlement	No. of terminated disputes (P)
1. Mutual settlement/ negotiations	236
2. Unconditional withdrawal of strikes/lockouts	305
3. Government Intervention/ Adjudication	204
4. Other methods	5
5. Not known	154
TOTAL	898†

(P) Provisional.

†Out of a total of 1047 disputes, 898 disputes had terminated and the remaining 149 disputes were still continuing.

Nuclear bid by Pakistan in collusion with Western countries

999. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan nuclear bid in collusion with the Western countries is creating conditions in the Indian peninsula for peace and healthy relations; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the Year Book 1980 issued by the International Peace Research Institute, Stockholm under which Pakistan is involved in regional arms race with India in the wake of development in Iran and Afghanistan; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Reports about Pakistan's

efforts to acquire nuclear weapons capability have been a matter of concern for the Government of India as this would work against peace and stability. Government of India; have taken up this matter with the Government of Pakistan at the highest levels. The Government of Pakistan have given an assurance that their nuclear programme is solely directed towards peaceful purposes and has no non-peaceful dimensions. It is hoped that the Government of Pakistan would abide by this assurance.

(b) Yes, Sir. According to the report, Pakistan accounted for 28 per cent of the major arms imports into the region during the MCS.

Foreign policy of Nepal Government

1000. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY; With the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Times of India of July 8, 1980 under the heading 'Nepal engaged in foreign policy review and seeking new directions with regard to its neighbour'; and

(b) whether it is a fact that in the garb of this "New Directions" the Nepal Government is striving for regional cooperation with countries like Bhutan, Pakistan and Bangladesh; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1977 at the Colombo Plan Consultative Conference held at Kathmandu, His Majesty the King of Nepal called for regional cooperation in the field of water resources development between Nepal, India, China, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. During his visits to neighbouring countries, namely, Sri

Lanka, Bangladesh and India, in early 1980, H. M. the King of Nepal discussed and expressed his country's interest in promoting regional co-operation, a policy which he subsequently reiterated in his address to the Rashtriya Panchayat on June 22, 1980. Nepal has formally supported the Bangladesh Presidents proposal for a South Asian summit Conference. The Nepalese Foreign Secretary recently visited Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and India to hold "regional consultations and discuss this idea. Nepal's call for regional cooperation is thus not a new phenomenon.

Nepal has repeatedly assured us that her policy of regional cooperation does not in any way preclude bilateral cooperation with India in mutually agreed projects*

Operational efficiency of Shipping Organisation

1001. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:
SHRI BHAGWAN DIN: SHRI
ROSHAN LAL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of a well-established shipping organisation in the country which is the second largest in Asia, the operational and financial results are depressing; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to ensure better financial results in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Indian Shipping Companies along with Shipping Industry all over the world were passing through a period of severe recession from 1975 mainly due to hike in oil prices. The position now is showing